

# City, BHA taking comments on two EPA grants

▼ *Proposals target downtown, Washington Narrows for redevelopment.*

**By TRACEY COOPER**  
*Editor*

The City of Bremerton and Bremerton Housing Authority (BHA) are each seeking public comments on two pending grant applications to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for brownfields grants.

Two public meetings have been scheduled next week to go over the proposals for the assessment and clean-up grants. Comments will be taken until Dec. 12.

The city is hoping to get up to \$400,000 for examining soils and groundwater for potential petroleum and hazardous waste contamination on three properties at Pennsylvania Avenue and the Port Washington Narrows.

"These properties provide an exciting opportunity to develop a new public access, marina expansion, and boat maintenance facility as well as to facilitate significant private investment in marine industrial development. This would be

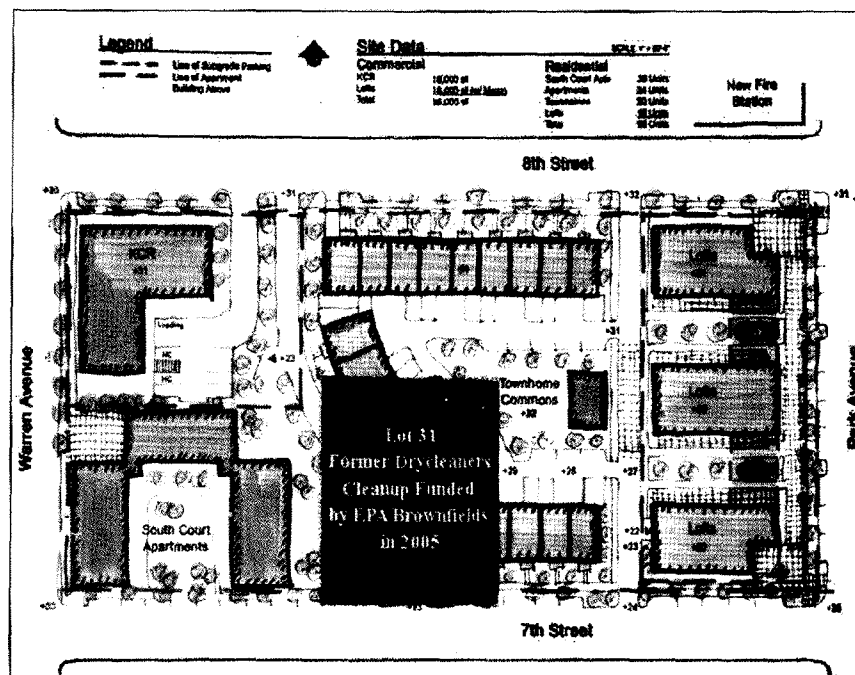
a great asset to Bremerton and Kitsap County," said Phil Williams, the city's public works director.

The properties located at 1725 Pennsylvania Ave. are currently owned by Paul and Margaret McConkey and Natasha Sesko. The property was previously used for a coal gasification plant, concrete manufacturing, vehicle repair, painting, and a salvage yard, among other industrial uses.

The federal brownfields program was created to help communities redevelop, reuse or expand land that — because of contamination, pollutant, or hazardous substance — might otherwise be unusable.

"That's the ultimate goal — to make areas more attractive for development," said Deborah Burgess, brownfields program officer for EPA Region 10. The program has been used several times throughout Kitsap including the redevelopment of Evergreen Park.

As part of the application process, public comments can be sent via e-mail to (thomas.knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us), or by mail to: Thomas Knuckey, City of Bremerton Public Works Managing Engineer, 3027 Olympus Drive, Bremerton, WA 98310. The draft proposal is available for viewing at the Public Works & Utilities building until Dec. 12. Call (360) 473-2376 to schedule an appointment or for information. A meeting to discuss the application is



Courtesy graphic

*This image shows plat 51 in downtown, which the Bremerton Housing Authority hopes to redevelop following an EPA cleanup.*

scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Oyster Bay Facility at 100 Oyster Bay Ave. North in Bremerton.

The EPA is expected to announce the grants in April 2006.

The BHA is hoping to get funds to cleanup an area between Seventh and Eighth Streets, and Warren

and Park Avenues. It consists of 17 lots occupied by family residences, parking garage, Southcourt Apartments, and an office building. The BHA plans to rehabilitate these sites once underground storage tanks and any hazardous substances found have been removed.

The grants would pay to perform

Phase 2 evaluations of the properties looking for potential contamination and known or suspected hazardous waste. Site assessment activities would be subcontracted to EPA environmental contractors and coordinated with the Washington State Department of Ecology's Voluntary Toxics Clean-

up program. Anticipated costs range from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per property, depending on specific site conditions.

"This aids in economic recovery and leads to sustainable growth while preserving 'green spaces' and help revitalize these communities in Bremerton," said Kathleen Byrne-Barrantes, grants consultant for the two agencies. Grant funds will also be used to support community involvement activities.

Earlier this year, the KCCRA acquired a \$200,000 cleanup grant for the 0.31-acre site located on Seventh Street and Park Avenue that operated as a former drycleaners between 1923-1972. That site remediation and brownfields grant cleanup activities have been subcontracted to the BHA as a part of the larger development project.

A draft application will be available and comments will be taken until 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12 at the BHA offices located at 345 Sixth Street Suite 200 (in the Norm Dicks Government Center). Inquiries should be sent to Bobbi Miller, multifamily asset manager, (360) 616-2238 or by e-mail to [bmiller@contractingmt.org](mailto:bmiller@contractingmt.org).

A meeting to discuss the application is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 5 from 4-5 p.m. at the Westpark Community Center.